



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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E-Mailed: JULY 17, 2013  
[Alam.Chowdhury@lacity.org](mailto:Alam.Chowdhury@lacity.org)

July 17, 2013

Mr. Alam Choudhury, City Planner  
City of Los Angeles, Department of Planning  
Marvin Braude San Fernando Valley  
Constituent Services Center  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 351  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

## **Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft MND) for the Proposed Eldercare Facility in Sun Valley (ENV-2011-2576-MND)**

SCAQMD staff is concerned that the process used to approve the Draft MND for the proposed project apparently has avoided input from our agency. Contrary to CEQA Guidelines §15073, SCAQMD staff did not receive the original draft document from the lead agency within the public comment period that ended October 17, 2012 (the SCAQMD staff only learned about the draft CEQA document afterwards from a member of the public). Surprisingly, the lead agency did not respond to the SCAQMD staff comment letter dated February 20, 2013 and also did not notify the SCAQMD of the subsequent hearings held on May 24, 2013 before the Zoning Administrator to approve the project CEQA document and the appellant hearing scheduled for July 18, 2013 before the North Valley Area Planning Commission (both hearing dates were also brought to our attention by a member of the public). Further, although our comment letter specifically requested that our agency be added to the lead agency's contact list (pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15073(e)), the SCAQMD staff did not receive notices of these subsequent hearings. This is particularly important since the SCAQMD not only reviews CEQA documents as a public agency charged with protecting natural resources and public health affected by this project, but there are times when the SCAQMD may have permitting authority over some aspects of a project's construction or operations. Failure to include a responsible agency in the CEQA process could unnecessarily delay the CEQA and related permitting process.

The SCAQMD staff maintains its original concerns (attached) stated in our previous comment, which are incorporated by reference. The SCAQMD staff also believes that a response to its February 20, 2013 letter should be provided along with adequate time for review by our agency and the general public prior to the lead agency taking action on this project. The SCAQMD staff reiterates its request that we be placed on the lead agency's contact list for this project and any future CEQA documents based on CEQA Guideline §15073 and 15087.

Mr. Alam Choudhury,  
City Planner

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Please provide the SCAQMD with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the adoption of the Final MND. Further, staff is available to work with the lead agency to address these issues and any other air quality questions that may arise. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments, please contact me at (909) 396-3244.

Sincerely,



Ian MacMillan  
Program Supervisor, CEQA-IGR  
Planning, Rule Development, and Area Sources

Attachment

IM:GM

LAC130214-05  
Control Number